



# Symposium and Workshop on Indigent Defense

## 10 Years Later: The Fair Defense Act – Looking to the Future

**Thursday, October 27 (Symposium location: [Capitol Extension Auditorium, 1100 Congress, Austin](#), and [parking information](#); also will be [live broadcast](#))**

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 8:00 – 8:30   | Registration in front of auditorium, also coffee, bfast tacos in the Legislative Conference Center (room downstairs below auditorium)  |
| 8:30 – 8:45   | Welcome and Opening Remarks<br>Presiding Judge Sharon Keller, Carl Reynolds, Christopher Burnett, Jim Bethke   |
| 8:45 – 9:30   | Keynote: Taking Gideon’s Pulse: Impacts of the Texas Fair Defense Act 10 years later - Senator Rodney Ellis, Dr. Tony Fabelo   |
| 9:30 – 10:15  | “Ordinary Injustice-How America Holds Court” - Amy Bach (45 mins. (.75) CLE)   |
| 10:15 – 10:30 | Break (books available for purchase in lobby outside auditorium; also sign up sheet for book signing luncheon)   |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Lone Star Solutions: Bell Indigent Defense Web Portal: Creating Transparency and Measuring Performance moderated by Judge Jon Burrows – Panel members are Judge Fancy Jezek, Brad Sibley (30 mins. (.5) CLE) |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | Harris County Public Defender Office: A National Learning Site – Alex Bunin; Jessica Tyler (30 mins. (.5) CLE)   |
| 11:30 – noon  | For the Defense – Buck Files (30 mins. (.5) CLE)   |
| noon – 1:30   | Lunch (on your own, Capitol Grill in Extension, or book signing event (Professor Thompson’s book) in Lt. Governor Reception Room – see last page of this handout for more information about how to sign up)  |
| 1:30 – 2:15   | Getting Lawyers To Do Better: The New State Bar Performance Guidelines - Jeff Blackburn, Andrea Marsh, Chief Justice Brian Quinn (30 mins. (.5) CLE, ethics)   |
| 2:15 – 3:00   | Pre-trial Matters - Tim Murray (45 mins. (.75) CLE)  |
| 3:00 – 3:15   | Break (books available for purchase in lobby outside auditorium)   |
| 3:15 – 4:00   | “Securing Reasonable Caseloads: Ethics and Law in Public Defense” Norm Lefstein (45 mins. (.75) CLE, ethics)   |
| 4:00 – 4:30   | Lessons From Around the Nation - John Gross (30 mins. (.5) CLE)  |
| 4:30 – 5:00   | What Now? Strategies to Improve Justice Outcomes – Jonathan Rapping (30 mins. (.5) CLE)  |

**\*Friday, October 28 (Workshop for Counties - location: Capitol Extension Auditorium)**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 8:00 – 8:10   | Welcome back, opening remarks, introduction of county teams – Terri Tuttle, Marshall Shelsy   |
| 8:10 – 8:30   | TIDC Services: Program Development and Assessment, Grant Program, Technical Support, and Website – TIDC staff members   |
| 8:30 – 9:00   | 2011 Legislative Update<br>Jim Allison, Wesley Shackelford  |
| 9:00 – 10:30  | Breakout Groups<br>Group facilitators promote discussion of other possible Lone Star Solutions to improve county indigent defense systems and working with what you have. Group facilitators will work to see that workgroup sessions result in recommendations. Group reporters will document recommendations on a 90-day action plan and conclusions of each group. |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | Break   |
| 10:45 – 11:45 | Group Reports<br>Moderators Marshall Shelsy, Terri Tuttle   |
| 11:45 – 12:00 | Final Thoughts, certificates  |

**CLE:** TIDC has received accreditation for continuing education credits from the following agencies, organizations or associations for 5.25 hours, including 1.25 ethics; report online at [www.texasbar.com](http://www.texasbar.com); Course Title: Symposium and Workshop on Indigent Defense; Course Date(s): 10/27/2011 to 10/28/2011; Course Location: Austin, TX; Course No.: 901233350; Texas Center for the Judiciary will automatically download from Bar; Texas Association of Counties has approved 5.25 hours for Constitutional County Judges Education Credit ([link to form](#)).

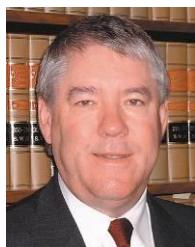
**Contact information:** Terri Tuttle, Texas Indigent Defense Commission, 205 W. 14<sup>th</sup> St., Austin, TX 78701, ph: 512-463-8015, email: [terri.tuttle@txcourts.gov](mailto:terri.tuttle@txcourts.gov); website: [www.txcourts.gov/tidc](http://www.txcourts.gov/tidc);

Powerpoint presentations and video downloads of presentations will be available on the TIDC website following the event.

**\*note,** limited to approximately 20 county teams committed to bringing elected court and county officials, chief public defender

*A special thank you is owed to Senator Rodney Ellis for securing the venue for the Symposium and the Workshop and to the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers for financial support!*

## Presenter bios:



**James P. Allison** currently serves as General Counsel of the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas. He was born in Paris, Texas, and reared in Delta County, Texas. He received a Bachelor's Degree in 1967 and a Master's Degree in 1968 in Government from East Texas State University. In 1971, Allison received his Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree from The University of Texas School of Law. He is a member of the Travis County Bar Association, The Texas Bar Association, the Bar Association of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Federal Bar Association, and the American Bar Association. Contact:

[j.allison@allison-bass.com](mailto:j.allison@allison-bass.com)



**Amy Bach**, a member of the New York bar, has written on law for The Nation, The American Lawyer, and New York magazine, among other publications. For her work in progress on Ordinary Injustice, Bach received a Soros Media Fellowship, a special J. Anthony Lukas citation, and a Radcliffe Fellowship. She was a Knight Foundation Journalism Fellow at Yale Law School. And she is a graduate of Stanford Law School. She lives in Rochester, New York where she has founded an organization called Measures for Justice to act on her book's conclusion and create a Justice index to measure delivery of basic legal services in counties across America. In the fall, she will be a Visiting Professor teaching criminal law

at the University of Buffalo law school.



**Jeff Blackburn** handles criminal defense and civil rights cases throughout Texas. He also represents the wrongfully convicted. In 2009, he represented the family of Tim Cole, a young man falsely accused of rape who died in prison, and got the first posthumous exoneration in Texas. He also represented 38 people falsely convicted in the infamous Tulia drug bust, eventually obtaining full pardons and civil damages. He is the founder of and chief counsel to the Innocence Project of Texas. He was named criminal defense lawyer of the year by the State Bar of Texas for 2002/2003. He has received the Frank Spurlock award, the Henry B.

Gonzales award, and the Maury Maverick award for his civil rights work. He is Board Certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.



**Alexander Bunin** is the Chief Public Defender for Harris County, Texas. Previously, he was the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of New York. In 1999, he was appointed by the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit to establish Federal Public Defender offices in the Districts of Northern New York and Vermont. He was twice reappointed to additional four-year terms. In 1995, before relocating to New York, he established and managed the federal defender organization in the Southern District of Alabama in Mobile. From 1993 to 1995, he was an Assistant Federal Public Defender in the Eastern District of Texas in Beaumont. From 1986 to 1993, he was in private practice in Houston, Texas, where he earned Board Certification in Criminal Law from the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. In 25 years as a criminal

defense lawyer, Mr. Bunin has tried many cases, including federal capital murder and complex

white collar fraud. He received the Thurgood Marshall Award for capital litigation from the New York City Bar Association. He was an Adjunct Professor at Albany Law School of Union University from 2003-10. He sits on the Advisory Board of THE CHAMPION magazine. He serves on the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers committees on Federal Rules, Electronic Case Filing, and Fourth Amendment Advocacy. As well as having written law review articles on federal sentencing and the death penalty, he is co-author of O'CONNOR'S FEDERAL CRIMINAL RULES & CODES (Jones McClure 2011).



**Christopher Burnett** Prior to being named as Executive Director of the Governor's Office Criminal Justice Division, Mr. Burnett was Assistant General Counsel in the Office of the Governor and also served as the office's Ethics Advisor, a position he continues to hold. Before moving to the Governor's Office, Mr. Burnett served as an attorney with the Texas Ethics Commission, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, the Texas Department of

Transportation, and the Texas Residential Construction Commission. Mr. Burnett is a former U.S. Army intelligence officer and linguist. He received his undergraduate degree in political science from the University of Colorado ('82), and his masters in international relations ('88) and law degree ('97) from St. Mary's University in San Antonio. He and his wife, Lea, and their two sons reside in Austin.



**County Judge Jon Burrows** is in his 4<sup>th</sup> term as Bell County Judge, having been first elected in 1998 and re-elected in 2002, 2006, and 2010. Judge Burrows was raised in Oklahoma and attended the University of Oklahoma on an Air Force Scholarship. He served four years on active duty and after release from active duty continued in the Air Force Reserves. He retired in 2000 from the Reserves as a full colonel after 30 years of active and reserve service. Following release from active duty in the Air Force, he entered law school at the University of Texas, where he received his law degree in 1976. That same year, he and his wife, Katie,

moved to Temple, where he began a law practice. He practiced law in Temple until his election as County Judge in 1998. He and Katie have been married 42 years. Katie, a microbiologist, retired in August, 2011 as Chair of the Biotechnology Department of the Texas Bioscience Institute of Temple College. They have two children and three grandchildren. He has served as Chairman of the Board of the Temple Chamber of Commerce. He served on the Board of Temple College, been President of the Temple Lions Club, and has served as Campaign Chairman of United Way of Central Texas. He is a graduate of Leadership Temple and has served on many other boards and committees. He is Past-President of the North & East Texas County Judges & Commissioners Association, Chairman of the Hill Country Transit District, and Past-President of the Central Texas Council of Governments. He served for 10 years on the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group. He is an appointee of Governor Perry on the Texas Indigent Defense Commission. As the chief elected official of Bell County, he manages a budget of \$75,000,000. Bell County has about 1,100 employees. County responsibilities include providing a court and records system (with 5 felony courts, 3 misdemeanor courts, 6 justice of the peace courts, and auxiliary courts for child support and child protective services), a juvenile justice system and alternative education program, a county jail, a juvenile and adult probation system; a county-wide 911 Emergency Communications Center; building and maintaining county roads and bridges; approval of rural subdivision developments; providing indigent health care services and providing numerous other services.



**Dottie Carmichael, Ph.D.** Dottie Carmichael, Ph.D. is a Research Scientist at the Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI). Over the past twenty-four years, she has worked with more than a dozen state and federal agencies to collect and apply data to inform policy decisions in more than eighteen major projects. Since the Fair Defense Act was passed in 2001, Dr. Carmichael has collaborated with the Texas Indigent Defense Commission in a series of research studies to improve indigent defense and criminal case processing. Dr. Carmichael also oversees the indigent defense online reporting system which is maintained by PPRI on behalf of the Commission.



**Senator Rodney Ellis** was elected to the Texas Senate in 1990. During his tenure, he has earned praise as a leader on economic development, education, civil rights, responsible environmental policy, tax cuts for the middle class, criminal justice, and workforce development issues; **Occupation:** Partner - Rice Financial Products Company; Shareholder - The Tagos Group; Of Counsel - Reaud, Morgan, & Quinn; **Education:** Texas Southern University, B.A.; LBJ School of Public Affairs, M.P.A.; University of Texas Law School, J.D.; **Legislative Experience:** Senate Member, 1990 – Present; **Hometown:** Houston



**Dr. Tony Fabelo** is in charge of designing, developing, and implementing a research agenda for the Justice Center. He also provides technical assistance to state and local governments to help them increase public safety and make more efficient uses of state and local taxpayer dollars. Before joining CSG, he was a senior research associate with the JFA Institute. He worked between 1984 and 2003 with the Texas Criminal Justice Policy Council, appointed by Governor Ann Richards to head this state research and evaluation agency in 1991. He continued to serve as director under Governor George W. Bush and Governor Rick Perry. During Tony's tenure on the council, he advised five governors from both sides of the aisle. In his different capacities in Texas he has assisted every legislature since 1985 in developing criminal justice policies, including crafting the major Justice Reinvestment initiative adopted by the Texas legislature in 2007. The US Attorney General appointed him to the Office of Justice Programs Science Advisory Panel in 2010. Tony received his B.A. in Political Science from Loyola University, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin. Tony is based in the Austin, Texas, office.



**Buck Files** has represented indigent defendants in Texas and federal criminal cases for more than 40 years and is the first criminal defense lawyer in 34 years to be elected President-elect of the State Bar of Texas. He is certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization (1975) and in Criminal Trial Advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy and has served on the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and on TBLS's Criminal Law Advisory Commission (Chair, 2001-2004). Buck is a charter member and former director of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and has been inducted into TCDLA's Hall of Fame (2011). He was named Defense Lawyer of the Year by the Criminal Justice Section of the State Bar (2004). Buck has been a frequent speaker at criminal law CLE programs for more than thirty years. He earned a B.A. from Austin College, where he sits on the Board of Trustees, and M.L.A. and J.D. degrees from Southern Methodist University. His

military service was in the United States Marine Corps. Buck is a shareholder in Bain, Files, Jarrett, Bain & Harrison, P.C. in Tyler, Texas.



**John Gross** is Indigent Defense Counsel for The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Prior to joining the NACDL, he was a Visiting Assistant Professor of Law and Acting Director of the Syracuse University College of Law's Criminal Defense Clinic. Prior to his teaching and clinical career, he was a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society in New York City in the Criminal Defense Division, where he represented indigent defendants at all stages of prosecution, from arraignment through disposition. A 1999 graduate of Hofstra University College of Law, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Georgetown University in 1995.



**Judge Fancy H. Jezek** is the presiding judge of the 426th District Court in Bell County, Texas. Jezek was appointed to the bench by Texas Governor Rick Perry in 2007 and elected in 2009. Jezek hears criminal cases and family law cases. Prior to her appointment on the bench, Jezek was a partner at Holbrook & Jezek and served as a trained mediator in family law, legal counsel for Killeen and Temple Independent School districts, and the Bell County Water Control and Improvement District #3. Jezek received her bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and her Doctor of Jurisprudence from Baylor University Law School. Jezek is board certified in Family Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. For nine years she was the director of Youth Ministry at First Presbyterian Church in Temple, Texas, and she has served on the board of trustees for the Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services. A native of Houston, Jezek resides in Temple, Texas, with her husband. They have three children.



**Sharon Keller** was first elected to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in 1994. She was elected Presiding Judge in 2000 and re-elected to that position in 2006. She is the first woman to have served on the Court. A native Texan, she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from Rice University in 1975 and her Juris Doctor degree from Southern Methodist University School of Law in 1978. Presiding Judge Keller is chair of the Texas Indigent Defense Commission and immediate past chair of the Council of State Governments Justice Center. She is also chair of Texas's Chief Justice Led Mental Health Task Force. Presiding Judge Keller is a Sustaining Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation and a member of the Judicial Advisory Council to the Community Justice Assistance Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. By virtue of her office, she is vice-chair of the Texas Judicial Council. In 2003 Presiding Judge Keller received the Distinguished Alumni Award for Judicial Service from the SMU Dedman School of Law.





**Norm Lefstein** is Professor of Law and Dean Emeritus of the Indiana University School of Law—Indianapolis. Professor Lefstein has served as director of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, as an Assistant United States Attorney in D.C., and as a staff member in the Office of the Deputy Attorney General of the U.S. Department of Justice. His professional activities include serving as Chair of the American Bar Association Section of Criminal Justice; as a member of the ABA Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants (SCLAID); as chair of SCLAID's Indigent Defense Advisory Group; as Chief Consultant to a Subcommittee on Federal Death Penalty Cases of the Judicial Conference of the United States; and as chair of the Indiana Public Defender Commission. Professor Lefstein was a member and co-reporter for the National Right to Counsel Committee and played a major role in writing *Justice Denied: America's Continuing Neglect of Our Constitutional Right to Counsel*, published in 2009. He also was reporter for the ABA *Eight Guidelines of Public Defense Related to Excessive Defender Workloads*, approved by the ABA in 2009. During the 1970's, Professor Lefstein was Reporter for the Second Edition of ABA *Criminal Justice Standards Relating to The Prosecution Function, The Defense Function, Providing Defense Services, and Pleas of Guilty*. In 1982, Professor Lefstein wrote *Criminal Defense Services for the Poor: Methods and Programs for Providing Legal Representation and the Need for Adequate Financing*, sponsored by ABA SCLAID; and in 2004, he co-authored ABA SCLAID's *Gideon's Broken Promise: America's Continuing Quest for Equal Justice*. His law review articles about indigent defense include an extensive study comparing public defense in the United States with criminal legal aid in the United Kingdom. In 2005, Professor Lefstein received the Champion of Indigent Defense Award, presented by the National Association of Criminal Lawyers.



**Andrea Marsh** is the Founder and Executive Director of the Texas Fair Defense Project (TFDP) in Austin, Texas. TFDP works to improve the fairness and accuracy of the criminal justice system in Texas, with a primary focus on improving access to counsel and the quality of representation provided to poor people accused of crime. TFDP defends the rights of indigent criminal defendants through litigation, education, and advocacy. Ms. Marsh is a graduate of Tulane University and Yale Law School. After graduating from law school, she clerked for the Honorable Keith P. Ellison of the United States District Court in Laredo, Texas. Ms. Marsh has been awarded several prestigious national public interest fellowships, including the Liman Public Interest Fellowship (2002-2003, Yale Law School), the Soros Justice Advocacy Fellowship (2004-2006, Open Society Institute), and the Wasserstein Public Interest Fellowship (2005-2006, Harvard Law School). She was recognized by *Texas Lawyer* Magazine as one of 30 Extraordinary Women in Texas Law in September 2008 and received the Texas Law Fellowships 2009 Excellence in Public Interest Award. She is a member of the Oversight Board for the West Texas Regional Public Defender for Capital Cases as well as the State Bar of Texas's Committee for Legal Services to the Poor in Criminal Matters. Contact: [amarsh@texasfairdefenseproject.org](mailto:amarsh@texasfairdefenseproject.org)



**Timothy J. Murray** is the executive director of PJI. He has worked as a criminal justice practitioner at the local, state and federal levels. His extensive pretrial services experience includes management and executive positions with the pretrial services systems in Washington, D.C., and Miami-Dade County, Fla. While in Miami, he was the principal architect and administrator of the nation's first drug court. He went on to serve with the U.S. Department of Justice as first director of the Drug Court Program Office. Following that appointment, he held the positions of director of policy and planning and director of program development at the Bureau of Justice Assistance. He completed his federal service as part of the start-up team for the Transportation Security Administration, now part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. He was selected as PJI's Executive Director in 2006. He has provided technical assistance to numerous programs and organizations, nationally and internationally. He is a lifetime member of the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies and is the proud recipient of the Association's most prestigious honor, the Ennis J. Olgiati Award. E-mail him at [tim@pretrial.org](mailto:tim@pretrial.org).



**Chief Justice Brian Quinn** has served on the Seventh Court of Appeals since May, 2005 and as Justice on the Seventh Court of Appeals since 1995. He was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1981. Education: El Paso Community College; University of Texas, El Paso (B.A. 1978) Legal Education: Texas Tech University School of Law (J.D. 1981). Prior Employment: Partner, McWhorter, Cobb & Johnson; law clerk, Honorable George Kazen, C.J., United States District Court, Southern District of Texas. Professional Activities: Texas Bar Association; Judicial & Appellate Section, State Bar of Texas; Lubbock County Bar Association; Amarillo Bar Association; Fifth Circuit Bar Association; Northeast Panhandle Bar Association; Panhandle Family Law Association; State Bar of Texas, Pattern Jury Charges - Business, Consumer and Employment Committee; State Bar Rules Committee.



**Jonathan Rapping** is the Founder/CEO of the Southern Public Defender Training Center (SPDTC). Mr. Rapping is the Director of the Honors Criminal Justice Program at Atlanta's John Marshall Law School in where he also teaches criminal law and criminal procedure. He is the former Training Director of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, an office nationally known for its training program. Following his tenure at PDS, in 2004 Mr. Rapping became the first Training Director of Georgia's new state-wide public defender system. In that capacity he was responsible for designing training programs for both legal and non-legal staff statewide. Mr. Rapping then became the Director of Training and Recruitment for the Orleans Public Defenders, where he was integral in the efforts to rebuild the public defender system in post-Katrina New Orleans. In recognition of his work in New Orleans, he was a co-recipient of the prestigious Lincoln Leadership Award, given by Kentucky's Department of Public Advocacy to honor leadership in national efforts to improve indigent defense. Mr. Rapping has trained public defenders all over the country, and was awarded a Soros Justice Advocacy Fellowship to develop the SPDTC. In 2009, Mr. Rapping was named a Wasserstein Public Interest Fellow by the Harvard Law School Office of Public Interest in recognition of his contribution to the public interest through his work with the SPDTC. **Carl Reynolds** is an attorney with extensive experience in all three branches of Texas state government. He is currently the Director of the Office of Court Administration in the judicial

branch. From 1997 to 2005 he was General Counsel for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), the executive branch agency responsible for prisons, probation, and parole. From 1993 to 1997, he was General Counsel to the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, which is the governing body for TDCJ. Prior to 1993, he was the Executive Director of the Texas Punishment Standards Commission (a blue-ribbon legislative agency charged with reforming the State's sentencing laws and corrections resources), General Counsel to the Texas Senate Committee on Criminal Justice, Director of the Senate's redistricting staff, and a briefing attorney for the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. Mr. Reynolds maintains a number of involvements with state and national organizations in the justice arena, include active involvement (either current or past) with the following organizations: National Center for State Courts; Conference of State Court Administrators; Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth & Families; American Bar Association Sentencing Committee; ABA Task Force on the Legal Status of Prisoners; Council of State Governments Justice Center; National Institute of Corrections; American Correctional Association; Vera Institute of Justice; Center for Criminology and Criminal Justice Research, University of Texas at Austin; Edna McConnell Clark Foundation; National Association of Sentencing Commissions; National Conference of State Legislatures; and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Austin. Mr. Reynolds holds a J.D. with honors from the University of Texas School of Law, a master's degree from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, and a B.A. with honors from the University of Cincinnati.



**Marshall Shelsy** is a Staff Attorney for the Harris County Criminal Courts at Law. He received his J. D. in 1980 from the South Texas College of Law, Houston, and a B. A., (Journalism) in 1972 from New York University, New York City, N.Y. Mr. Shelsy's memberships include: Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Criminal Law Exam Commission, (2001–Present); Houston Bar Association: Chairperson, Criminal Law and Procedure Section, 1992; Member, Continuing Legal Education Committee, 1993—Present; in addition: Chair, Inter-professional Relations/Physicians Committee, 1995; Texas District and County

Attorneys Association (Associate Member); Member, North American Delegation to 2006 International Probation Conference, Mielno, Poland; Teaching activities: Texas Center for the Judiciary, Inc.; Texas Municipal Court Education Center; State Bar of Texas; Texas Association of Counties; Adjunct Professor, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas; United State Drug Enforcement Administration; Texas Department of Public Safety; Texas Indigent Defense Commission



**Bradley L. Sibley, MBA** is a strategy, process, and software senior consultant currently working on projects for Bell County, Texas. Sibley has worked with over 75 Texas counties since 2001 in the areas of inmate medical care, indigent health care, financial systems, indigent defense, pretrial services and the courts. He has been an invited presenter at many commissioners' courts around the state and has authored works on indigent health care, inmate medical care, and indigent defense. Sibley was the Director of Software Development, and later the General Manager, for Indigent Healthcare Solutions from its inception in 2001 until 2008. In 2008, Sibley was a Senior Consultant/Manager with the Strategic Services Group for Computer

Sciences Corporation (CSC), a Fortune 500 global technology firm. During his tenure at CSC, he worked for two major aerospace and defense companies in the areas of data governance, data quality, and software licensing. For a Dallas based oil and gas company, he led a project to improve the quality and process for production accruals and improve revenue forecasting for

the company. Sibley received his A.A. in Accounting and Business Administration, B.S.B.A. in Management Information Systems from The University of Southern Mississippi, and his MBA in International Business from University of Houston. The Mississippi Legislature recognized Sibley in 1999 as a member of the All-Mississippi Academic Team and he also received the Dr. Clyde Muse Presidential Scholarship to The University of Southern Mississippi. Sibley, a native of Mississippi resides in Dallas, Texas.



**Jessica Tyler** is with the Justice Center and is responsible for designing and managing long-term research projects; conducting or assisting with data analysis; and writing research reports directed at national, state, and local elected officials and policymakers. Before joining the Justice Center, she was a senior researcher at the Texas Office of Court Administration, working on court and indigent defense research. Previously, she worked for MGT of America, a large national consulting company with offices in Austin. In that role, she worked on different criminal justice projects, including the assessment of police and corrections departments. In addition, she has taught criminal justice at the Austin Community College. Jessica has a B.A. from the University of

Texas at Austin and holds an M.A. in public policy from the College of William and Mary and an M.A. in political science from the University of Houston. Jessica is based in the Austin, Texas, office.

## Staff of Texas Indigent Defense Commission



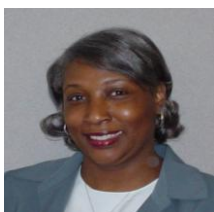
**James Bethke** serves as Executive Director of the Texas Indigent Defense Commission and has done so since 2002 (the Commission was formerly the Texas Task Force on Indigent Defense). The Commission is charged with executing a statewide system of standards, financing and other resources for criminal defendants unable to hire attorneys. He is responsible for administering a 60 million dollar plus biennial operating budget. His office also collects, reviews,

and maintains all 254 county expenditure reports and local plan documents relating to county indigent defense services. He currently serves on the Indigent Defense Advisory Group (IDAG) for the ABA Standing Committee for Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants and the Texas Criminal Justice Integrity Unit. During the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative interim, he served as the presiding officer of the Timothy Cole Advisory Panel on Wrongful Convictions. He is a U.S. Army veteran from the 101st Airborne Division and a Texas Bar Foundation Life Fellow. He graduated from the University of Texas at Tyler and the Texas Tech University law school and joined the Office of Court Administration in 1998 after serving as general counsel for the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center. Before that he was chief prosecutor for the Lubbock City Attorney's Office. He is a past-chair of the Juvenile Law Section of the State Bar of Texas and Juvenile Law Exam Commission for the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, and an Ex-Officio member of the Governor Perry's Criminal Justice Advisory Council.



**Edwin Colfax** is Project Manager and administers the innocence project grant program. Prior to joining the Texas Indigent Defense Commission, Edwin served as state policy director for The Justice Project, a Washington D.C.-based non-profit organization dedicated to reducing the risks of wrongful convictions and enhancing the quality of indigent defense. Since 2006 Edwin has been based in Austin, conducting research and advocacy for reforms that enhance the reliability of evidence presented in criminal courts. Before his assignment in Austin, Edwin implemented the Justice Project's Illinois program in Chicago, where he was based at the Center on Wrongful Convictions at Northwestern University School of Law.

Edwin worked closely with the Center's director and attorneys on public education, research and legislative advocacy. In addition, Edwin brings five years of private sector business experience. He is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, where he focused on philosophy and government. He later earned a M.A. in philosophy from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a concentration in ethics and political theory. While there he taught undergraduate courses in ethics, political philosophy and writing skills.



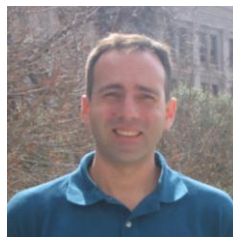
**Carol Conner** is the Fiscal Monitor with the Texas Indigent Defense Commission at the Texas Office of Court Administration. Ms. Conner monitors the activities of counties that receive grants and ensures that grant funds are used in accordance with the Fair Defense Act. Prior to joining the Commission, Ms. Conner was the Statewide Coordinator of the Securitor New Century's Performance 2000 (P2K) project for the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division (CJD). As Statewide Coordinator, Ms Conner managed regional grant reviewers and coordinated project activities as a liaison to CJD. Prior to assuming the Statewide Coordinator position, Ms. Conner was the DFW Regional Grant Reviewer for the P2K project. In addition, Ms. Conner was employed with North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) as the Criminal Justice Grant Specialist. She provided technical assistance to over 300 grantees and conducted site visits in the Dallas/Ft. Worth (16 county region) area. In addition, she served as the NCTCOG representative that informed grantees of the funding sources through CJD. Ms. Conner's background and professional experience consist of employed as a Community Supervisor Officer at McLennan County Supervision & Corrections Department, Waco, Texas. Additionally, she was the Associate Editor for the Texas Probation Journal. She taught at Tarrant County College-Northwest Campus, Fort Worth, Texas as an Adjunct Instructor in the Criminal Justice program. Ms. Conner earned Master Degrees in Criminal Justice and Human Resource Management from the University of Central Texas. Additionally, she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of South Carolina. Her expertise consist of staff training and development; quality assurance and technical assistance; employees relations; program and policy development. Ms. Conner has attained the Training for Trainers Certificate and Management Program Certificate.



**Dominic Gonzales** is a program specialist for the Texas Indigent Defense Commission, helping county officials and court administrators develop, implement, and improve indigent defense systems throughout the state. Prior to joining the Commission, Dominic worked on indigent defense issues through a number of non-profit organizations, starting with Texas Appleseed in 2000. Dominic is a graduate of Santa Clara University in California, serves on the board of directors for the National Hispanic Institute, and is on the City of Austin's Citizen Review Panel for the Office of the Police Monitor.



**Marissa Kubinski** is Administrative Assistant for the Commission and prior to joining the Commission, she served as the marketing coordinator and executive assistant for a corporate aviation company in South Florida. She received an undergraduate degree in Mass Communication at Florida International University, and went on to obtain a Masters in International Affairs from Florida State University. She has a passion for all things international: travel, food, and culture, and now as a resident of Austin, enjoys exploring everything the city has to offer.



**Joel Lieurance** serves as the Policy Monitor for the Commission. The purpose of this position is to use an evidence-based practices approach to promote local compliance, proficiency, and accountability with the core requirements of the Fair Defense Act. He is responsible for analyzing data collected at the local level, reviewing county indigent defense plans and practices, and then reporting his findings to the Commission. He acts as an enabler to local government by noting factors driving successful indigent

defense programs in local jurisdictions and by showing how local indigent defense services could be improved through utilizing proven practices followed in jurisdictions across the State. Joel has past experience in the software industry, working as a quality assurance engineer and as a build manager. He has a law degree from Texas Tech University, a M.S. in Management from North Carolina State University, and a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from North Carolina State University.





**Wesley Shackelford** serves as Deputy Director/Special Counsel to the Texas Indigent Defense Commission (Commission). He develops standards and policies for the provision of indigent defense services and acts as team lead on fiscal and policy monitoring programs. Wesley also provides legal advice on the issue to judges, counties, and the Commission. He also speaks about indigent defense issues to stakeholders and policy makers. He has been with the Commission since 2002. Wesley previously

served as Senior Staff Attorney for the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) from 1995-2002. He was the intergovernmental relations' specialist for TJPC and provided information to legislators and other state agencies. Wesley also responded to inquiries on juvenile justice law from judges, probation officers, and prosecutors, as well as, speaking regularly on juvenile law and progressive sanctions. Prior to TJPC, Wesley was employed as a research associate at the Senate research Center, research associate and messenger at the Texas Legislative Council, and research assistant at the International Financial Law Review in London. Wesley graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a B.A. in Government in 1990. He received his Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1994 from the University of Texas School of Law and was licensed to practice law in 1994. He is a member of the Juvenile Law Section of the State Bar of Texas.



**Terri Tuttle** serves as Executive Assistant to the Executive Director of the Texas Indigent Defense Commission (Commission) and Commission with public administration of this state agency, as well as Project Manager for several areas of the program including the annual indigent defense workshop, publications, website, other special projects and Commission meetings. Prior to this position she worked in the Office of the Governor in both the Bush (1998-2001) and Perry (2001-2002) administrations. That experience provided her with background knowledge of the Fair Defense Act. Her legal administration experience goes back to 1980. A native Texan,

she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from The University of Texas, Dallas in 1984 and her Master in Public Administration degree from Walden University in 2009. She resides in Dripping Springs.



**Sharon Whitfield**, formerly with the Texas Department of Agriculture ("TDA"), brings a wealth of financial and budget experience to the Commission. Sharon worked in the Financial Services section of TDA for the past fifteen years. Ten of those years were focused on budgeting. Sharon became a Sr. Budget Analyst in 1992 where she held that position until 1996 when she was promoted to a Budget Analyst III. In 1999 she was promoted to Supervisor for Budget and Planning and she held that position until her transfer to the Commission. Sharon has

performed advance budget preparation and analysis work, prepare grant reports as required by state and federal guidelines, monitor budgets and expenditures, prepare monthly budget reports, develop internal operating budgets as well as work on the Legislative Appropriations Request. Sharon is an authentic Austinite, born and raised in the Capitol City, graduated from Crockett High School and a graduate of Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas.



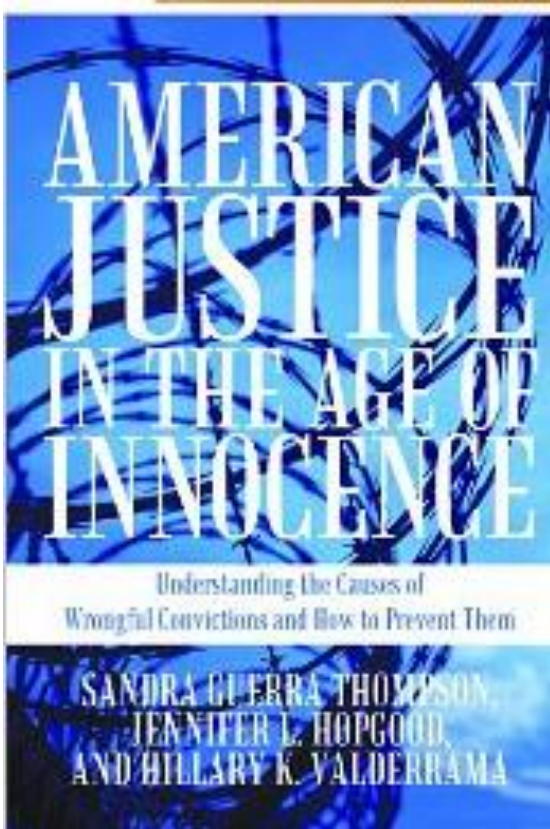
**Jennifer Willyard** is research specialist for the Texas Indigent Defense Commission, and assists Texas counties to develop, implement, and improve public defender programs. Prior to joining the Commission, Jennifer was employed as a policy analyst for several criminal justice non-profit organizations where she worked through research, education, and legislation to improve the quality of evidence that enters into Texas courtrooms. Jennifer received her Ph.D. in Communication from Texas A&M University where she studied political and organizational rhetoric.



**Bryan Wilson** serves as Grants Administrator for the Texas Indigent Defense Commission. He works with the Director and Commission to distribute approximately \$30 million per year to improve indigent defense in Texas. The intent of the funds is to assist Texas counties to improve existing programs and develop new indigent defense programs. Bryan also examines the impact of grant funds. Bryan has served the courts since 1988. He started as a probation officer in the 21st and 286th District Courts (Bastrop and Hockley Counties), served as Texas Department of Criminal Justice Treatment Alternative to Incarceration Program Administrator, and Program Director for the TDCJ Office of General Counsel. Bryan also supported the Supreme Court Permanent

Judicial Commission on Children Youth and Families as Grant Administrator. Bryan was born and raised in Austin, and resides with his wife in Burnet County.

## *American Justice in the Age of Innocence:*



### *Understanding the Causes of Wrongful Convictions and How to Prevent Them*

**Don't miss the hosted  
book signing luncheon!**

The exoneration of more than two hundred and fifty people who have been wrongfully convicted makes it clear that America's criminal justice system isn't foolproof. Professor Sandra Guerra Thompson tackles the big wrongful convictions issues in the new book *American Justice in the Age of Innocence*. Professor Thompson is a professor of law at the University of Houston Law Center, and co-edited the book with Jennifer Hopgood and Hillary Valderrama. The book analyzes the causes of wrongful convictions in order to find solutions that will ensure the integrity of the judicial system while safeguarding the public. The collection of essays is written for judges, lawyers and scholars alike.

### **Hosted book signing luncheon details**

There will be a hosted book signing luncheon Thursday, October 27 with Professor Thompson in the Lieutenant Governor's Reception Room, on the second floor (east), Room 2E.16, of the Capitol. Prof. Thompson's book may be purchased in the lobby outside the auditorium during Symposium breaks. Be sure to pick up your book and sign up for the complimentary luncheon at the book table, because space is limited to the first 70 persons to sign up.